Amur Corktree

Phellodendron amurense

Native Country: Eastern Asia (northern China, Manchuria, Korea, Ussuri, Amur, and Japan)
Description: Phellodendron amurense Rupr. (Rutaceae--citrus family) is a deciduous tree which reaches heights of 9-12 m. Mature specimens have short trunks with deeply ridged and corky bark, and widely spreading crowns. The leaves are dark green (yellow in the fall) and 23-38 cm long. The compound (odd-pinnate) leaves consist of 5-13 leaflets. Male and female flowers occur on separate trees. The inconspicuous, green-yellow flowers bloom in June. Clusters of fleshy, black berries remain on the trees into the late fall and winter. Each berry is 8-12 mm wide, and contains five seeds.

Amur Cork Tree

Fruit and leaves

Leaf

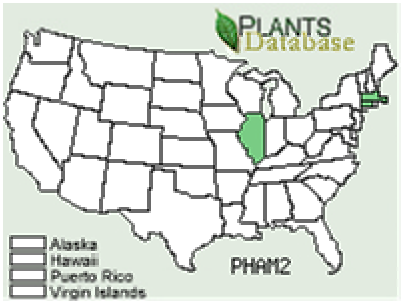
Leaf

Big tree

Bark

(Photographs by Pat Breen at breenp@bcc.orst.edu)

Impact: This tree is demonstrating invasive characteristics in suburban and urban fringe forests. P. amurense is adaptable to various environmental conditions; it grows well in different soil types (clays to light sand), is pH adaptable, drought tolerant, and has no serious pest problems. In areas with ample moisture and good soil, the tree produces large amounts of seed. P. amurense quickly invades disturbed forest areas.



Distribution: Phellodendron amurense is heat-loving, cold-tolerant, and hardy in USDA zones 4-7. It is reported invasive in IL, NY, PA, VA. North of Philadelphia (in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania). P. amurense has aggressively invaded disturbed forests. It has been observed escaping into native hardwood forests in New York.

Control: Control methods should include:
1) Focus on reducing or stopping fruit production and spread. When allocating limited resources in a control program, it might be appropriate to concentrate control efforts on female plants.
2) Practice disturbance prevention. P. amurense easily invades disturbed areas.

Reference: http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/alert/alrtphel.html, http://plants.usda.gov